

Training Workshop on Shark Fin Identification and the Transnational Illegal Trade in Shark Fins

Summary



In July 2018, the CEC held a three-day workshop in Vancouver, Canada, to provide training to participants from relevant agencies from Canada, Mexico, and the United States on the identification of shark fins and the North American and global shark fin trade.

The training was designed to increase regional CITES enforcement capacity by addressing the needs of inspectors and enforcement personnel, and by helping to increase regional and national CITES enforcement and compliance priorities in the North American trade in shark fins. Key insights that arose in the discussions among the workshop participants as a result of this training involved shared regional challenges to enforcement, jurisdiction-specific considerations in addressing these challenges, and potential regional opportunities to increase compliance.



Shared regional challenges to enforcement included:

- effective allocation of enforcement resources for detecting consignments of relevance
- ability to effectively detect fins subject to CITES regulation within consignments
- effective communication and consistency of reporting between jurisdictions

Ability to address these challenges varied by nation, but all were agreed on the importance of:

- access to and allocation of inspection resources
- availability of locally relevant field materials and training for their effective use
- inter-agency collaboration



Opportunities to increase compliance suggested by participants involved possible direct, trilateral collaboration through legal trade to meet reciprocal market needs and trilateral traceability labeling. Provision of additional technical materials to augment some key aspects of the training was also suggested.

Read more at:
<http://www3.cec.org/cites/sharks/>

